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29678-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:  
Kamaljit S. Paul

Group Art Unit: 3733

Serial Number: 10/627,065

Examiner: Annette R. Reimers

Filed: July 24, 2003

Title: Spinal Plate Assembly

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is being submitted in response to the Restriction Requirement dated 03/21/2006 in the above-identified patent application.

Applicant herewith elects, with traverse, Group I, Claims 63-84. Applicant traverses on the basis that the examiner will necessarily search both class 606 subclass 69 (recited for Group I) and class 606 subclass 61 (recited for Group II) in examining the claims of Group I. Restated, in a thorough search directed at examination of the claims of Group I, the examiner will necessarily search all of the class/subclass combinations which will be included in a thorough search directed at examination of the claims of Group II. Therefore, there is no additional search burden on the examiner to examine the 6 claims of Group II.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class

Mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on the date of: April 13, 2006.

Glenn Graham

(Typed name of person mailing paper or fee)

(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)

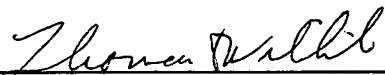
Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that all of the claims be re-joined and examined together as a single group of claims.

No fee is believed to be due. Should any additional fee be properly due, or if any refund is due, kindly charge same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 23-2130.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned with any questions, comments or concerns, at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kamaljit S. Paul

Date: April 13, 2006

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